

- c. That the notary administered an oath or affirmation to the signer, who swore to or affirmed the contents of the document.
- (9) "Moral turpitude" means conduct contrary to expected standards of honesty, morality, or integrity.
- (10) "Nickname" means a descriptive, familiar, or shortened form of a proper name.
- (11) "Notarial act," "notary act," and "notarization" mean the act of taking an acknowledgment, taking a verification or proof or administering an oath or affirmation that a notary is empowered to perform under this Chapter, as authorized by G.S. 10B-20.
- (12) "Notarial certificate" and "certificate" mean the portion of a notarized record that is completed by the notary, bears the notary's signature and seal, and states the facts attested by the notary in a particular notarization.
- (13) "Notary public" and "notary" mean a person commissioned to perform notarial acts under this Chapter. A notary is a public officer of the State of North Carolina and shall act in full and strict compliance with this act.
- (14) "Oath" means a notarial act, or part thereof, which is legally equivalent to an affirmation and in which an individual at a single time and place:
  - a. Appears in person before a notary;
  - b. Is personally known to the notary or identified by the notary through satisfactory evidence; and
  - c. Makes a vow of truthfulness on penalty of perjury while invoking a deity or using any form of the word "swear".
- (15) "Official misconduct" means either of the following:
  - a. A notary's performance of a prohibited act or failure to perform a mandated act set forth in this Chapter or any other law in connection with notarization.
  - b. A notary's performance of a notarial act in a manner found by the Secretary to be negligent or against the public interest.
- (16) "Personal appearance" and "appear in person before a notary" mean an individual and a notary are in close physical proximity to one another so that they may freely see and communicate with one another and exchange records back and forth during the notarization process.
- (17) "Personal knowledge of identity" means familiarity with an individual resulting from interactions with that individual over a period of time sufficient to eliminate every reasonable doubt that the individual has the identity claimed.
- (18) "Principal" means an individual whose signature is notarized; or an individual other than a credible witness, taking an oath or affirmation from the notary.
- (19) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium and called a traditional or paper record.
- (20) "Regular place of work or business" means a location, office or other workspace, where an individual regularly spends all or part of the individual's work time.
- (21) "Revocation" means the cancellation of the notary's commission stated in the order of revocation.